Our first examples of Universal Design are the curb cuts. They were designed for people with physical disabilities but they can benefit us all—whether you’re pushing a stroller, carrying large bags, or using a rolling cart to carry your books. They help us all gain access to the sidewalk and the building.

Another example of Universal Design is the wheelchair ramp. It was designed for people with physical disabilities but, as you can tell, it helps us all gain access to the building—whether you’re carrying large bags, hauling a stroller, or just trying to get a hand up to the building.

Our next example is the door switch. It helps us gain access into the building even if you’re using a wheelchair or you just need to get into the building.

Our next stop is the water fountain. Newly designed water fountains have been lowered for wheelchair accessibility. Also, the twist knob has been removed and replaced with side and front buttons. But, for the everyday user who might have his hands full with a heavy load, it makes taking a sip of water a lot easier.

Our next stop is the restroom. This is a unisex restroom that is also designed for people with disabilities. If you notice on the sign, it comes with Braille and large picture symbols to help people with visual impairments. This restroom also comes with a door switch for easier access. Let’s take a look inside. The first thing you’ll notice about this restroom is that it comes equipped with a wider stall and hand rails. This is to accommodate people who may be using a wheelchair. Another thing you will notice in this restroom is that it comes equipped with a slanted mirror. This is to help people of all different heights view themselves.

Our last stop is the elevator. Elevators were designed to help people with mobility challenges move throughout the building. But, as you know, elevators are used by everyone to help get where they are going. For people with visual impairments, this elevator has a sign with Braille on it.
Also, on every door there is a raised floor number on it. Let’s take a look inside. In this elevator, everyone button on the control panel has Braille on it. Also, there is a raised star to signify that this is the first floor.

I hope you have enjoyed our short field trip. I challenge you to find more examples of Universal Design in your environment that help everybody.